

The **REACT**er

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May-June, 2002

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Jim Coker, Travis Co. (Tex.) *REACT*, gives last-minute instructions to movie star Robin Williams before the start of the Ride for the Roses (See Page 10. Photo: William Pittman)

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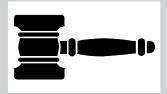
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From the Chairman

B. F. "Frank" Jennings

wish to thank the Officers and Directors for the tireless efforts they have applied to your organization, *REACT* International. We successfully held our Winter Board Meeting this past February and accomplished a great deal.

As our president, Chuck Thompson, pointed out in his recent news release, *REACT's* membership over the past three years has been almost stable. Despite the loss of many older members, we have gained enough new members to keep the total nearly the same. In past years, we experienced a decline of ten to fifteen percent annually.

Your Officers and Directors have been operating on a nearly one-hundred-percent return to the corporation of our expenses. We apply for our expenses and then donate them back to *REACT*, thereby increasing the amount of financial support being provided to the corporation by its members. This can be important as we seek new funds from foundations and corporations.

Unfortunately, we have lost some of our dedicated Directors, due to health and financial difficulties, and for other reasons. We will always be grateful for the many contributions these people have made to *REACT* over the years.

We've made significant progress in improving *The REACTer*, our membership database, Suitland office procedures, the WorldWide Web site, and training materials. Many more improvements are being planned for the future.

One of the goals of the reorganization we went through two years ago was to separate the policymaking functions of the Board of Directors from the operational responsibilities of the officers. Lee W. Besing agreed in February to accept the office of treasurer, in addition to continuing as secretary. Lee is also president of

the Texas State *REACT* Council and is an officer in his home Team, Bexar County *REACT*. With all those responsibilities, he decided to resign as Region 7 Director. Robert Kaster of Oklahoma accepted the Board's appointment to serve as Region 7 Director for the remainder of Lee's term. Norman Kaplan of Federal City *REACT* also agreed to serve as Assistant Treasurer.

With these changes, three of our Officers (Chuck Thompson, Lee Besing, and Norm Kaplan) are *not* also Directors. Dick Cooper will continue to serve as both Region 2 Director and Executive Vice-President.

Regrettably, Fred Lanshe has had to resign his position as Vice-President and as Region 1 Director. I'm convinced that Fred actually worked himself into bad health, running back and forth between Allentown, Penn., and Suitland, doing hundreds and hundreds of things for *REACT*. When we found our treasury running close to empty, Fred always managed to find the money to keep *REACT* afloat. Although he denies it, on several occasions I suspect he found those funds in his own pockets. Each and every *REACT*er owes Fred a belated *Thank You* and our heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery of his health.





From the President

by Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson

very couple of months, *REACTer* Editor Stuart DeLuca reminds me that I'm late in getting my comments and other materials to him for the next issue. He has this thing about deadlines; editors are funny that way. While it's often a nuisance to have to comply with his deadlines, it's a pleasure to have someone as diligent as Stuart handling our magazine.

In this issue, you'll find a summary of the minutes of the Annual Board Meeting of the Board of Directors, held 22-24 February. Many items were considered, decisions made, and progress made. *REACT* International is fortunate to have such dedicated Directors – not only do these folks donate their time, they also pay virtually all of their own expenses.

The Board, in its infinite wisdom, decided to keep me on as President for another year. I'll do the best I can to make things work as well as possible. And,

with Dick Cooper (N.J.) continuing as Executive Vice President, Secretary Lee Besing (Tex.) adding the Treasurer's duties, and Norman Kaplan (Md.) accepting the newly created job of Assistant Treasurer, I think we have an administrative team that can do the job well.

Lee resigned as Region 7 Director in order to have more time for his administrative duties, and I'm pleased to report that Bob Kaster (Okla.) accepted appointment to fill out Lee's term.

I received a membership report the other day; it shows that

our total membership in all categories went from 3,920 in 1999 to 3,890 in 2000 (a drop of 30) and back up to 3,963 in 2001. Registration figures for 2002 are still not final, but we're optimistic that we'll have as many or more members as in 2001. These results are only the beginning, of course. It's great to have stopped the annual net loss of members – but it's up to all of us to work together to bring in new members and Teams.

In closing, I must report that, for health reasons, Region 1 Director Fred Lanshe wasn't able to attend the Annual Board Meeting, and since he also missed the July 2001 meeting, was deemed by the Bylaws to have resigned.

Fred, who was awarded the Eugene Goebel Award (REACT's highest) in July1998, worked tirelessly for *REACT* since being elected to the Board and being appointed Treasurer, Fred made uncounted trips from his Allentown, Penn., home to Suitland, to take care of administrative matters, help in the office, and generally look after REACT International's business. We're going to miss Fred, and trust that he will now be able to concentrate on becoming healthy again. Thanks, Fred, from all of us.

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EYE ON WASHINGTON: Governor Ridge Announces a New Homeland Security Advisory System

by Alan Dixon, N3HOE / WPUC72Ø / KST8678
REACT Affiliate 3345 - Melbourne, Florida <n3hoe@arrl.net>

Late last winter, US Homeland Security Director, former New Jersey Governor Tom Ridge announced the inception of the new federal Homeland

Security Advisory System (HSAS). This alerting system is intended to give federal, state, and local officials, as well as the American people, a "comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist attacks."

The HSAS was created as a result of Presidential Directive 3, issued by President Bush as part of several initiatives intended to enhance coordination and communication among the various levels of government and the public. The office of the US Attorney General has been charged with developing, implementing, and managing the HSAS after a 45-day public comment period, which began March 12, and a 90-day period of deliberation and development. By late July the Attorney General and the Homeland Security Director will forward a final HSAS plan to the President for approval.

The White House notes that several federal alert systems exist in the US, such as the FCC's Emergency Alert System (EAS) for broadcast stations, and the NOAA Weather Radio SAME alert signaling system. The Homeland Security Advisory System will provide a "national framework" for the existing systems, allowing government officials at various levels *and citizens* to communicate the nature and degree of any terrorist threats to any functional or industrial sector or to any region or locality. The heart of the new HSAS is its ability to indicate five levels of vigilance and preparedness by various color-coded threat conditions.

Four key factors among others are used for the assignment of these threat conditions: Is the threat credible? Is the threat corroborated? Is the threat specific and/or imminent? And, how grave is the threat?

Homeland Director Lists Security Condition Levels

REACTers should become familiar with the five threat conditions, listed here by name and color code, and the recommended protective measures that may be applied for each:

Low Condition - GREEN:

Low risk of terrorist attacks. Protective Measures that may be applied:

Refining and exercising preplanned protective mea sures;

Ensuring personnel receive training on HSAS, departmental, or agency-specific protective measures; and

Regularly assessing facilities for vulnerabilities and taking measures to reduce them

Guarded Condition - BLUE:

General risk of terrorist attack. In addition to the previously outlined Protective Measures, the following may be applied:

Checking communications with designated emergency re sponse or command loca tions;

Reviewing and updating emer-

gency response procedures; and Providing the public with necessary information.

Elevated Condition - YELLOW

Significant risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outlined Protective Measures, the following may be applied:

Increasing surveillance of critical locations;

Coordinating emergency plans with nearby jurisdictions;

Assessing further refinement of Protective Measures within the context of the current threat information; and

Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.

High Condition - Orange

High risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outlined Protective Measures, the following may be applied:

Coordinating necessary security efforts with armed forces or law enforcement agencies;

Taking additional precaution at public events; Preparing to work at an alternate site or with a dispersed workforce; and restricting access to essential personnel only.



Severe risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outlined Protective Measures, the following may be applied: Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-position ing specially trained teams; Monitoring, redirecting or con

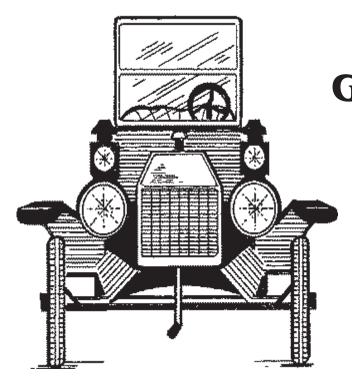
Monitoring, redirecting or con straining transportation sys tems;

Closing public and government facilities;

Increasing or redirecting person nel to address critical emer gency needs.



REACT Teams, specialized REACT task forces, and DCAT responders need to carefully consider these outlined protective measures to see where they fit into the matrix. Also, take into account which of these measures could possibly hinder REACT response, particularly the logistics of Team deployment to specific facilities or areas, as some become sealed off. What is your Team's working relationship with its served agencies? Be sure that your served entities and officials know at what point Team callout will be appropriate. As always, preplanning helps emergency deployment run smoothly. Waiting until an alert is invoked before initiating served agency contact could in some cases prove to be too late.



Great Race Will Cross the Southwest -with *REACT* 's Help!

by Ron McCracken, Co-chair, Public Relations

he History Channel's 'Great Race' officials have announced the route for the 2002 classic car race. *REACT* Teams in the southwest are the lucky ones this year. They will be the flag_bearers for this *REACT* 40th Anniversary event. It is the second year that *REACT* Teams have been involved. Race dates are Saturday, June 15 to June 22.

San Antonio, Texas, is the starting point. The race crosses Texas, New Mexico and Arizona to California, where the vintage vehicles will cross the finish line in Anaheim.

Teams in or near the following towns along the route should plan now to help out when the Great Race passes: Schulenburg, Houston, Hillsboro, Fort Worth, Eastland, Sweetwater, and Littlefield, Tex.; Clovis, Tucumcari, Las Vegas, Rio Rancho, and Gallup, NM; Winslow, Williams, Prescott, Payson, Scottsdale, and Gila Bend, Ariz.; Holtville, Chula Vista, and Temecula, Calif.

For *REACT* communicators across these four states the Great Race is a fine opportunity. Teams can assist in a variety of ways locally, and co_ordinate efforts with other participating Teams too. It is a happy event that allows Teams to hone the same essential skills they

would use in an emergency or disaster.

Teams may be asked to provide personnel to 'shadow' key race officials with communications links. Escorts may be needed to link the first and last race vehicles with control points. Security for race vehicles while on display or parked overnight is also needed. Markers to direct vehicles at tricky points on the route through towns may be required to keep the cars on course. Police may request REACT assistance with traffic control at some points. First aid trained *REACT*ers could be stationed along the route. Your GR contact may have other requests as well. Assign a Team photographer to take lots of photos. Send copies of the best to 'the REACTer' with captions and a story of your involvement.

Establish contact with your local Great Race official immediately, if you haven't already

done so. Offer to have a *REACT* liaison attend planning meetings. Your Team's experience with parades and other large community events can be a great help. Listen carefully for route proposals that pose potential problems so you can help head them off. Offer to work with GR personnel to prepare a media release. There's lots of PR potential here for Teams that are alert!

Remember, the Great Race will air later as a History Channel hour_long special program. Needless to say, each Team member should be on notice to appear in full *REACT* uniform, and each vehicle should carry *REACT* magnetic signs. Order some fast, if necessary. Alert Team members now to have uniforms clean and pressed, shoes shined, etc. You will represent *REACT*, to all of the US and beyond.

Great Race 2002 traverses two *REACT* regions this year, giving further opportunity for consultation on a larger scale. *REACT* Director

Bob Leef and Secretary-Treasurer Lee Besing are coordinating *REACT* operations for this major event. Your Team liaison can reach Lee at 210-680-2680 and Bob at 949_770_9501, or by email at < president@texasreact.org > and < kb6don@earthlink.net > , respectively. Teams along the route have already received a letter from them with further details.

Teams whose members subscribe (free) to the *REACT*-L mailing list have had this information for about 6 weeks. That is a lot of valuable lead time. Urge some or all of your Team members to subscribe so you too can receive instant updates on *REACT* matters like this. To subscribe, simply send a one_word post, 'subscribe', to react_l@gibbousmoon.com . It's as easy as that.

Act fast. Get in on this 40th Anniversary event. Show your best *REACT* stuff. Make us all proud.

REACT International Convention 2002



An Iowa Odyssey!

We're Getting Ready For You!

The *REACT* International Convention 2002 is getting closer, and our plans are just about complete. Speakers are being finalized; trips, events, guests, and other surprises are rapidly being added to the schedule. But we need *you* to register and attend!

We all know the tendency to wait until the last minute to register for things. But we need to know how many people to plan for. Iowa is in the middle of the country, so it's not a great distance for anyone to travel. This is *your* convention – you really don't want to miss it!

Radio Frequencies

We have decided that the following frequencies will be used for the convention:

Amateur......146.34/94

GMRS......462.625 simplex, no tone GMRS.....462.675 simplex, 141.3 tone

CB......Ch. 19 for initial contact, then we may switch

Junior REACTer Banquet

Because we need to order pizza for the occasion from the hotel, we can't determine the cost until we know how many Junior *REACT* members will attend. As registration cutoff nears, we will be able to determine the price.

T-Shirts

There *will* be T-shirts, in addition to Dee's Tees, but we are waiting to verify a donor. At present, it looks like the shirts will be *free*!

Photos

The 8x10 photos for the convention, Life Members, and Amateurs will be \$7.50 each; the same photos in 5x7 size will be \$6.00. We think the "price is right"!

Tours

All details are not quite complete as this goes to press, but tours to the NWS and the STARC Armory will run about

\$6 per person if there are 47 people on the bus. If fewer people take the tours, the cost will be a little higher. We are also arranging trips to area shopping malls and other wonderful spots of historic and interesting value. That information will be available when you check in. Don't worry, we'll keep you busy with plenty to do!

Amateur Radio Special Event Station

An amateur radio special event 1x1 call sign has beenissued for the duration of the REACT International 2002 Convention in Des Moines. This call is KOI (Kay-zero-eye). The Iowa REACT Council has made arrangements for an amateur radio station to be set up at the convention; amateur radio operators are needed to assist in the Special Event Operations. This operation is in recognition of REACT's 40th anniversary. Special certificates or QSL cards will be issued for confirmed contacts with the station during the convention. If you assist in the operation, you will be given a special certificate as a Guest Operator. For more information or to volunteer as an operator, contact Iowa REACT Council President Joe Hoepfner, KOCFI, at < k0cfi@cfu.net > . If enough volunteer operators are available, the station will be operated 24 hours a day during the convention.

The Convention Schedule

Monday, July 15, 2002

Noon - Midnight Hospitality Open 9:00a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Operations Open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibits Open 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. Registration & Credentials 1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m. **RI Committee Meetings** 7:00p.m. - ? Welcome Party Cash Bar Available

Tuesday, July 16 7:00 - Midnight Hospitality Open 8:00a.m. - 10:00p.m. Operations Open 8:00 - Noon **Registration & Credentials** 8:30 - 9:00 First Timers Meeting 9:00 - 5:00 **Exhibits Open** 9:15 - 10:30 **CERT Training** 10:00 - 10:50 Board meets with Committee Chairs 10:30 - 11:30 Fund Raising 10:30 - 11:30 Skywarn Training Classes 11:00 - 11:50 Board meets with Council Presidents 11:30 - 1:00 Life Member Luncheon Noon - 1:00 Lunch on your own Caucus for States without Councils 1:00- 1:45 Skywarn Training 1:00 - 1:45 2:00 - 4:00 **Opening Session** 4:00 - 5:00 Committee Meetings

5:00 - NWS Tour:

National Weather Service Facility at Johnston, Iowa

Dinner on your own

Wednesday, July 17

7:00 - Midnight Hospitality Open 7:00 - 8:15 Amateur Radio Breakfast 8:30 - 10:00 General Session

10:30 - 11:15 FBI Training Session

Wednesday (Continued)

11:45 - 1:15 Awards Luncheon 1:30 - 3:00 Media Training Course 2:00 - 4:45 **Amateur Radio Testing** 5:00-6:00 Photos - Group, Amateur, Life Dinner on your own 7:00 - 9:00 Fox Hunt

Thursday, July 18

7:00 - Midnight Hospitality Open 8:30 - Noon STARC Armory Tour with Terrorism Class Noon - 1:30 Lunch on your own 1:15 - 1:30 2003 Convention Presentation 1:30 - 4:00 Open Board Meeting 6:00 - 6:30 Cash Bar 7:00 - ?Banquet "An Evening of Entertainment" 7:00 Junior Banquet

Friday, July 19

9:00 - 9:50 Convention Critique 10:00 - 11:00 2003 Host Committee Meeting



9 May-June, 2002



Riding for Roses Can Bring Surprises!

by Stuart M. DeLuca Photos by William Pittman

ne of the neat things about living in Austin, Texas, is that you never know who's going to drop in – expresidents, world-class athletes, and movie stars show up at the oddest times.

Austin is the hometown of bicycle racer Lance Armstrong, three-time winner of the Tour de France, one of the most grueling athletic competitions in the world. That would be a significant achievement for anyone; in Armstrong's case, it's even greater. Six years ago he was diagnosed with a life-threatening form of cancer. He has not only survived but has become a living legend.

Armstrong used part of his race winnings to establish the Lance Armstrong Foundation for Cancer Research. Their principal fund-raiser each year is a series of bike-oriented events culminating in the Ride for the Roses, a hundred-mile tour through the rolling hills east of Austin. Travis County *REACT* has provided communications for course monitoring, safety, and logistics all three years of the Ride.

Some of Armstrong's celebrity buddies always show up for the Ride. Last year it was world-class bike racer Miguel Indurain. This year comedian and movie star Robin Williams not only entertained the crowd at the pre-Ride events, he joined Armstrong and his U.S. Postal Service team for the Ride itself.

An estimated 9,000 people rode in this year's RFR; altogether some 20,000 took part in some of the weekend's activities, and raised an estimated \$7 million for cancer research and patient support. For Travis Co. *REACT*, it was, as always, one of the biggest and one of the most rewarding events of the year.



Meet the Candidates

By the time you read this, your Team should have received its ballot for the election of your Regional Director, if your Team is in Region 3, 6, or 9. The following candidates have been nominated for the three Regional Director seats. All three are currently serving as Regional Directors and are seeking re-election. The information below has been provided by the candidates.

Region 3

John Knott, Orlando, Fla. Occupation: Manager, Walgreens Drugstore.

Age: 31. Single. Education: High School graduate.

John has been a member of *REACT* since September, 1985. He has served as president, vice-president, secretary, and sergeant-at-arms of his Team, East Central *REACT*, and as president, first and second vice-president, and sergeant-at-arms of the Florida State *REACT* Council. He also has served on the RI Rapid Response Committee. He has been Region 3 Director since July, 2002.

John submitted the following statement:

I believe that *REACT* International, Inc., and its member Teams across the United States will have a role in the Citizen Corps. We need to look forward in the future for *REACT*. We need to look into all types of communications as being a focal point.

September 11, 2001, was a major catastrophe for the U.S. Nothing like this has happened here in the states before. It has been a real shocker on how unprepared we are for something of this magnitude. Data is still being collected and researched. I would like to be a part of a committee to be organized to research on what future roles *REACT* International would have in a ma-

jor crisis. I would highly suggest some type of Emergency Plan or SOP in Disasters to be developed. The data from September 11th is instrumental in organizing an emergency plan or SOP.

I would push forward with the NDCAT plan. Help with research of funding for the NDCAT plan. Help organize a plan of action for NDCAT and assist in developing the first NDCAT team.

Living in Florida and experiencing natural disasters yearly -- like hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, severe afternoon thunderstorms, and more - I have seen where small Teams can be easily overwhelmed by disasters. With the assistance of members of the Florida Council, we were able to put together a disaster plan that has proven its worth many times over. I believe that the same would help *REACT* International. With anything in life, having a plan makes things a whole lot easier.

REACT has a role in assisting other organizations active in disaster response, like CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Teams). I know that CERT is big in Florida and California. But soon it will be growing across the U.S. with the help of FEMA.

I have assisted Florida in growth with *REACT*. Although we have had our fair share of roller-

coaster years, we are still pushing forward in making Florida one of the strong points in *REACT* International, Inc. If elected I plan on assisting *all* states in Region 3 in growth. Without membership, there is no *REACT*. I have been writing notes on ideas for growth and will be sharing these with the Board and Officers of our organization.

I have done and plan on continuing presentations on *RE-ACT* to the public and prospective members. I am willing to travel to all the Teams within the Region to assist them in many different fields. I plan on assisting the states within Region 3 in forming a Council if they don't already have one. I'm very much "pro-*REACT*," and I am currently working on getting my amateur license.

Region 6

B. F. "Frank" Jennings of Poulsbo, Washington.

Occupation: Retired (U.S. Navy). Age: 75. Married. Education: Two years' college, no degree.

Frank is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, and Regional Director for Region 6. He has been a member of *REACT* since 1975 and a member of Kitsay County (Wash.) *REACT* since the Team was formed in 1987. He has served as president,

(Continued on Page 12)

Director Candidates' Statements

(Cont'd from Page 11) and vice-president of his current and former Teams and as president of the Pacific Northwest RE-ACT Council. He is licensed in both amateur and GMRS radio.

Frank did not submit a personal statement.

Region 9

Ron Faulkner, Woodstock, Ont. Occupation: Courier.

Age: 47. Married.

Ron has been a member of *REACT* since 1979, and has served for the past three years as Regional Director for Region 9, which includes all Teams outside of the United States.

He has been a member of Stratford (Ont.) *REACT* since 1992; he previously was a member of Woodstock District *REACT*.

He has served as his Team's Operations Manager and Secretary, and has been Convention Chairman for the *REACT* Council in Ontario.

Ron is licensed in both amateur and GMRS radio services, and serves as divisional superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Service.

Ron did not submit a personal statement.

Calendar

Editor's Note: This is a new feature appearing in The REACTer for the first time. Calendar will list events of general interest to Teams and members, including Council meetings and non-REACT events. Contributions are welcome; to submit information, mail or E-mail to the addresses given on Page 1.

June 3	Deadline for submissions for July-August REACTer
July 15-18	REACT International Convention (Des Moines, Iowa)
August 5	Deadline for submissions for September-October REACTer
October 1 7	Team Registration/Renewal for 2003 begins Deadline for submissions for November-December <i>REACTer</i>
December 2	Deadline for submissions for January-February REACTer
January 1	Deadline for proposed changes to RI Bylaws (to be submitted to Bylaws Committee)
February 1 3 15 22	Deadline for committee reports to Board of Directors Deadline for submissions for March-April <i>REACTer</i> Deadline for nominations for Regional Director (Regions 2, 4, and 7) (Date tentative) Annual Meeting of Board of Directors, <i>REACT</i> International,

Summary of the Minutes of The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc.,

held at Suitland, Maryland, 22-24 February 2002

Directors Present:

Frank Jennings, Chairman & Region 6
Dick Cooper, Region 2
John Knott, Region 3
Jack Murrell, Region 4
Larry Fry, Region 5
Lee Besing, Region 7
Robert Leef, Region 8
Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson, President, ex officio

Directors Absent:

Fred Lanshe, Region 1 Ron Faulkner, Region 9

Officers Present:

Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson, President Dick Cooper, Executive Vice President Lee Besing, Secretary

Officers Absent:

Fred Lanshe, Treasurer

Office Staff:

Dora Wilbanks, Office Manager

Guests:

Johnny Stowers (Calif.), Computer Services Chair Lynn Jennings (Wash.) Michael Cauley (Fla.) Charles Tucker (Fla.)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Frank Jennings at 8:45 a.m., Friday, 22 February 2002. The Chairman expressed appreciation to those in attendance.

- 1. Establishment of Quorum; Agenda. The Secretary announced there were eight of ten Directors present, and there was a quorum. The President distributed copies of the agenda.
- **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Cooper, to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held at the July 2001 Convention. Unanimous.
- 3. Director Missing Two Consecutive Meetings. It was noted that Director Fred Lanshe (Region 1) was not present, and had also missed the July meeting. Bylaws Sec. 5.5(b) provides that a Director will be deemed to have resigned by missing two consecutive (non-electronic) Board meetings, and that the Board may decline this

deemed resignation. It was noted that Mr. Lanshe has recently had serious health problems. The resignation will be effective when the Board adjourns *sine die* at the end of the meeting.

- **4. Officer Reports.** Mr. Cooper reported on progress in developing committee duties and responsibilities and posting to the web site.
- 5. Reports of Committees of the Board.
- a. Finance. No report from the Finance Committee, Treasurer, Mr. Lanshe, not present. Office Manager expected a fax copy of report later in the meeting. Discussion of signature authority and discussion of reports from investment firm being available.
- b. Membership. Mr. Cooper reported no actions required in past year.
- c. Office Review. Will be done Saturday.
- **6. Corporate Committee Reports.** Mr. Cooper presented several reports.
- a. Publications Review: Stuart DeLuca's written report highlighted the new Team charter certificate and new manual for Planning Safe Community Events, reviewed current publications (not complete), and advised office manager of some which did not meet standards. Committee offers assistance to other committees in developing brochures or materials, and asked for budget increase reflecting last vear's over-budget results and to add an "Art Director" for The REACTer at \$600 annually. The Committee recommended reducing the advertising rates approximately 50% to attract new advertisers. Referred to Mr. Cooper to implement.
- b. Computer Services. Written report deferred until later.
- c. Public Relations. Ron McCracken's written report noted that REACT International publicly supported two ARRL petitions before FCC dealing with Amateur

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Radio matters. Other points covered Radio Hero Award, WTC Disaster Relief Efforts, funding for 40th Anniversary Logo design contest, request to reinstate PR Committee. A video PSA is being developed as a term project at Oklahoma City Community College.

- d. Training & Development. Currie's written report Tom summarized work on Level I Emergency Communications, with Level 2 under development. Course is available for REACT members only from the web site. Mr. Currie asked for records to be established for tracking persons taking various training courses. Committee asked for budget to purchase a corporate seal and labels to put on certificates of completion and \$40 to purchase software to generate random test questions.
- e. Membership Development and Retention. Ed Greany's written report provided some excellent ideas for Teams to incorporate in their programs and idea for new manual to be distributed to Teams. Discussion about forming Teams in other countries where income levels are low compared with the USA and setting rates.
- f. FCC Liaison. William Riley asked for RI letter of introduction to the FCC.
- g. Life Membership Chairman. Richard Gamble reported that there were 230 Active Life Members and 163 Unattached Life Members at end of 2001.
- h. Convention & Site Selection: Selma Dassa has resigned from the Committee, but reported that there have been no firm bids for 2003 or future years.
- 7. Review of Committee Structure and Operation. Mr. Cooper presented recommendations to combine some committees and eliminate others, along with recommendations for committee chairs. The list of chairs appointed appears below.

The President noted that

the Bylaws did not specify who appoints corporate committee chairpersons and that he had recently been appointing chairs. He asked the Board to establish a policy. He advised that he had created an ad hoc Disaster Response Procedures Committee to review RI's response to the WTC disaster on September 11, 2001.

Mr. Cooper recommended that the Government Liaison and Voluntary Agencies Liaison positions be combined. After discussion it was the consensus to retain the two positions.

It was noted that there is no "Life Membership Committee" and that the "Life Membership Chairman" is elected annually by the Life Members to represent them.

After discussion, the Board unanimously reinstated the Public Relations Committee.

The Board discussed and approved eliminating the Rapid Response Teams as a committee, and created a new Emergency Response Committee. It also reviewed how the Florida DCAT program was partially funded by government agencies and how that could be expanded to an NDCAT system.

The Board reviewed each committee's operation, and the performance of each chairperson.

After discussion, the final proposal for Committee/Liaison Structure and chairpersons was as follows:

- -Awards & Recognition Committee – Florence Hedges (Ind.)
- -Bylaws, Policy & Procedures Committee Johnny Stowers (Calif.)
- Communications Committee – William Riley (Md.)
- -Computer Services Committee – Johnny Stowers (Calif.)
- -Convention & Site Selection Committee Vacant
 - -Emergency Response

Committee - Chris Myers (Fla.)

-Five-Year Planning Committee – Dick Cooper (N.J.)

- -Government Relations Liaison – Vacant
- -Junior REACT Committee- Linda Faulkner (Ont.)
- -Membership Development & Retention Ed Greany (Calif.)
- -Public Relations Committee – Ron McCracken (Ont. and Fla.)
- -Publications Review Committee Stuart DeLuca (Tex.)
- -Training and Development Committee – Tom Currie (Ky.)
- -FCC Liaison William Riley (Md.)
- Voluntary Agencies Liaison - Vacant
- -Ways & Means Committee
 Vacant

Candidates were identified for the vacant positions of Convention & Site Selection, Government Relations, Voluntary Agencies and Ways & Means. These committees and liaisons will not be changed at the summer conventions except as deemed necessary. Chris Myers (Fla.), Bob Lumpkin (D.C.), and John Fisken (Wash.) were retained as NDCAT Team Leaders.

Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Knott, to approve this modified structure. Unanimous. Duties of each committee/liaison are posted on the web site.

8. Bylaws. There were no formal submissions for **Bylaws** amendments. Mr. Thompson advised he would propose for later consideration changing the term of office for President to a two-year term, establishing the office of Executive Vice President as second in charge, deleting the office of Vice President, and establishing authority to create additional vice presidents PROFICIO POLICIOS E Current policy revision was discussed, as was identifying several new policies. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Fry, that the Board of Directors recognizes the Family Radio Service as an important communications tool for Teams and members to use when appropriate. Unanimous.

10. Team Handbook. The Board received an offer from a REACT Team to revise the Team Handbook and present a revised version to the Board at the July 2002 convention. The Publications Review Committee had already been assigned that responsibility. The current edition includes missing pages because double-sided pages were misfed through the copier and poor quality from using copies of copies as masters. Discussion held on means of avoiding these problems in the future. Mr. Thompson reminded the Board that any new or revised materials in the Team Handbook must be sent to all Teams.

11. Awards. Standards for issuing, size, appearance, and wording of RI certificates were discussed. It was established that the Eugene Goebel Award would be RI's highest award, followed by the President's Award, with possible lesser awards to be established. The President was tasked to standardize and provide written guidelines for *REACT* International awards, including criteria for award, who selects awardees, etc

12. Financial Review. Copies of the corporation's financial reports (generated from QuickBooks) and the Audit Statement from Singleton & Bardowski, LLC (CPA's) were distributed and the fiscal results of 2000 and 2001 were reviewed. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Fry, to direct Mr. Thompson to sign the audit letter on behalf of the corporation. Unanimous. Discussion held about simplifying structure of used for internal accounts bookkeeping. Tax returns were considered and it was announced that all required returns have been completed and are awaiting signature. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Knott, to direct the President to sign the returns on behalf of the

corporation. Unanimous.

13. Checking Account Controls. Currently two signatures are required on every check, but the second is usually applied using a rubber stamp. Mr. Thompson proposed that the Office Manager be the first signature on the account and require a second signature only if the check is over a designated amount or is a non-budgeted item. Motion Mr. Fry, 2d Mr. Leef, to authorize Dora Wilbanks to sign all checks under \$250 plus routine budgeted expenses such as rent and telephone. Dual signatures are required for all other checks. Unanimous.

14. Insurance. The Board considered an offer from the same carrier as 2001 to renew the General Liability Policy for \$19,871 for one year. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Cooper, to accept this offer. Unanimous.

Mr. Leef asked why RI HQ did not have a copy of claims paid by the insurance carrier to allow the officers and Board to be aware of any losses. Motion Mr. Leef, 2d Mr. Cooper, to have the President ask the insurance agency (or carrier) to provide copies of claims and loss records to the RI office. Unanimous. 15. Office Procedures Manual. This is a continuing work in progress, overseen by the Executive Vice President. The existing manual developed to date by Ms. Wilbanks was briefly reviewed..

16. Proposed letter to FCC re GMRS. Mr. Thompson advised that he did not write a letter to the FCC regarding several GMRS changes as instructed by the Board. These proposals included doubling the term of GMRS license from 5 to 10 years, reinstating GMRS group licenses, and easing restrictions on grandfathered GMRS group licenses. He said that his decision not to send the letter was based on a conclusion that extending the license term to 10 years (and increased license fees) would be

the end of GMRS use by *REACT*, and that the FCC had already said it wasn't going to reinstate group licenses. It was noted that the FCC had very recently denied the first item, cost and/or length of license, and refused to consider a petition filed by Mr. Leef and Alan Dixon in 2001. Motion Mr. Besing, 2d Mr. Leef, to refer this issue to RI FCC Liaison William Riley to inquire with the FCC. Unanimous.

17. Review of WPRT-970 License. Mr. Thompson stated he had consulted with a Dallas radio dealer (member of Dallas County REACT) who recommended using a professional licensing company in Pennsylvania to assist in modifying this license to achieve what is needed. Motion Mr. Leef, 2d Mr. Besing, to authorize the President to engage the services of a consultant to complete the WPRT-970 license modifications required. as Unanimous.

18. Five-Year Planning Committee. This was established one year ago. Permanent members of the committee are the chairs of the Membership Development, Public Relations, Computer Services, and Publications Review committees, plus other members added by the Committee or the Board. The RI Executive Vice President is the committee chairman. The Committee has not been activated at this time.

19. Operation of the Board of Directors. Question raised about who approves a Team charter. Bylaws call for the Membership Committee (of the Board) to approve or handle disputes involving Team or Councils. Directors are currently notified of all applications for charters. Charters are sent to Councils and Directors for approval.

Discussion held on the subject of timely responses to Board E-mail messages and problems with mail servers delaying the receipt of messages by individual Directors. Mr. Leef stated that he generally got

immediate responses from Mr. Thompson even if he didn't always get the answers that he wanted.

Discussion held on the subject of the role of the officers in running the daily business of the corporation, while the Directors were responsible for setting policy and managing their regions.

Mr. Cooper reiterated the official policy of clearing all public statements or releases on behalf of the corporation with the President prior to being released. This includes committees which wish to issue official releases.

20. Computer Committee. Johnny Stowers presented a written report. Committee has been updating pages and removing dated items, moving toward providing more membership-oriented services on the web site, affordable web sites/ domain names for Teams and Councils, educating the membership on how to use computers to help their Teams. Mr. Besing presented an offer to move toward establishing a stand-alone web and mail server for REACT use. Domain hosting would be \$60/year including domain name registration and E-mail aliases. Motion Mr. Knott, 2d Mr. Cooper, to direct the Computer Services Committee to proceed establishing the domain hosting and mail services for Teams and Councils as presented by the Committee. Unanimous. Mr. Murrell urged the Committee to write articles for the REACTer and "Team Topics Mailings" (if restarted) to help educate those who may not currently be accessing the web site.

Mr. Stowers explained what changes have occurred with the database over the past year, and what changes the Committee would like to see done. He asked for input on standardizing the information listed for each Team/Council on the web site to be made public. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Knott, to adopt a policy of standardizing the information for each Team and Council on

the web site with Team number, name, address, two phone numbers, fax, web address, two Email addresses and other info deemed possible by the Computer Services Committee, Unanimous.

(Closed Session – concerning a legal matter briefing by Mr. Thompson acting as General Counsel.)

21. Proposal to establish MOU with Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Mr. Leef stated that many *REACT* Teams are currently working with their local CAP chapters and to establish such an agreement would encourage others to work together. Motion Mr. Besing, 2d Mr. Thompson, to authorize Mr. Leef to investigate the possibility of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Civil Air Patrol. Unanimous.

22. Philippines "REACT". Ed Greany has been in contact with a group in the Philippines with 8,000 members that was started in 1982. Discussion held on possibility of establishing formal relations with them that could result in their becoming members of RI. Mr. Thompson read E-mail from a director from this organization. Their web-site is located <www.geocities.com/ reactkMLN>, with pending site at <www.REACTKAAMULN.org>. Discussion about what services RI could reasonably expect to deliver to the Philippines and the possible need to establish a separate director position. The Board researched exchange rates and economic conditions in the Philippines. Dues are presently set at US\$15 per adult and US\$5 per junior member for Trinidad and Tobago. Charter application fee is \$15 per Team, Mr. Thompson to share this information with Mr. Greany for communications with his contact in the Philippines.

23. Mexico "**REACT**". There is a Team wanting to form in Mexico City. The rates of US\$15 per adult and US\$5 per junior member will apply

to Teams in Mexico. Mr. Faulkner to handle contact, with translation provided by Mr. Leef.

Meeting recessed at 6:15 p.m. Friday.

Meeting called to order 8:15 a.m. Saturday. No change in attendance. Quorum present.

24. REACT Store Items. Several proposals to supply REACT caps for resale were considered. Mr. Leef, Mr. Faulkner, and Bob Kaster (Okla.) obtained one set of bids. Mr. Thompson had also obtained bids. Discussion held about professionalism in appearance, differences in opinion regarding black or orange colored caps. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Besing, to adopt a full black, high crown, cap with embroidered RE-ACT patch on the front. Passed, 6 for, 2 against. Both mesh and solid back caps are to be stocked. Discussion held on quality of caps available from USA manufacturers compared with overseas providers, and the price difference where Teams would consider making local arrangements.

Discussion held about existing supply of standard patches (hundreds in stock), the blue edged patches (from Pennsylvania) and a proposal by Mr. Leef to add "volunteer communications" inside the triangle below "REACT". Discussion held on including "volunteer communications" as an integral part of the patch or having a separate optional "flash." Motion Mr. Leef, 2d Mr. Thompson, to direct management to order sew-on "Volunteer Communications" flashes for sale through the REACT Store. Unanimous.

Mr. Besing reminded the Board that the auditors had found some inventory items being sold below current cost.

25. Criteria for 100% Team Renewal. Current procedure is to count total members on the Team roster at the end of the year and compare with members renewed.

Discussion held. Mr. Thompson stated that in the absence of Board objection, previous year's renewal figures will be compared against current year's renewal report when determining which Teams reached 100% renewal levels.

26. ID Cards Design. Discussion about removing the CB9 Logo from the membership identification card. Many Teams/Members currently cover the CB9 logo with a photo and laminate the card. Discussion by Mr. Murrell regarding CB9 and REACT's history. Consensus not to change.

27. On-line Certificates. Mr. Thompson proposed that RI provide a variety of award certificates on the *REACT* web site capable of being filled out online (Team name, awardee name, signature name, date, etc.) and printed on the user's printer. Approved and referred to the Computer Services Committee for implementation.

28. Resignation of Vice President. Mr. Thompson reported that Vice President Fred Lanshe had previously submitted his resignation as Vice President, and informed the Board of several reasons given for the resignation.

29. Proposal by REACTer Editor. REACTer Editor DeLuca's proposal to add an "Art Editor" at \$600 per year and to use the services of Ms. Pat Knight (wife of Mr. Besing) was considered. Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Murrell, to approve. Unanimous (Mr. Besing abstaining).

30. Budget. The Board review and modified a budget prepared by the Office Manager (instead of the Finance Committee). A balanced budget of \$101,275 was reached and unanimously adopted. 31. Review of American Red Cross and Salvation Army MOUs. possible Discussion on amendments, based on post-September 11 activities. Topics included the right of REACT Teams to have their members wear REACT uniforms and be identified as such while supporting with these agencies. Team identification (signs) was also discussed. The President is to contact the ARC and TSA about these concerns, with a view to amending or rewriting the existing MOUs.

32. Progress Report of Ad Hoc **Disaster Response Procedures** Committee. Mr. Thompson appointed this Committee shortly after September 11 to review RI's response to the 9/11 disasters and other previous disaster situations. Bob Kaster (Okla.) is chairman. Discussion was held on the "Command and Control System" used by fire departments and other emergency response agencies. The mission of the Committee is to develop procedures that RI can follow in disaster situations. RI does not issue marching orders to local Teams to mobilize and send them to the scene, but probably can be of greater assistance if prepared to do so. Motion Mr. Leef, 2d Mr. Knott, to table until the Committee report has been received. Unanimous.

33. Consideration of items submitted by Director Leef. Questions were asked about past items approved by the Board regarding web site links to a GMRS Directory web site and establishment of a supporting membership (for businesses who donate to *REACT*). Mr. Cooper will send information to the Membership Development Committee for implementation.

Director Leef suggested an annual award for Team/Council web sites to be managed by the RI awards committee, instead of the convention staff.

He also suggested that a procedure be developed so that new members could be added via the web site on a form in a member only area. It was noted that E-mail and fax could be used to add new members with use of a credit card for payment. Concerns were expressed about verifying that new members were being added with

Team knowledge.

Other items included questions about office procedures for handling inquiries received by the office and intended for a Director or committee and being aware of what resources are available from the office.

Questions were raised about the E-Comm Course, and how availability of the course is being publicized. (Members send E-mail to "IwantEcomm@react intl.org" and get an auto-responder message with instructions).

Translation of materials into Spanish was previously approved and the question was raised about which committee should be assigned to accomplish this. Names for translators to be provided by Mr. Leef to Membership Development and Retention Chair Greany.

Mr. Leef checked with Teams in his region to verify Team Info on the RI web site and found invalid and missing information. Discussion was held about the mechanism to drop and add Teams on a timely basis.

Director Leef recommended establishing a nominating committee to find at least two candidates for each Director position. Discussion on the difficulty of finding suitable candidates in past elections. Regions 3, 6, and 9 will select Directors in 2002; all incumbents are expected to stand for reelection.

Mr. Leef thinks that RI should respond to adverse comments about *REACT* in the media, so the public has a proper image of us. Mr. Thompson chose not to respond to a recent article in PopComm, noting that to do so would simply give the editors another opportunity to disparage *REACT*.

Mr. Leef inquired about inquiries that came in via the toll-free "877" number. Ms. Wilbanks cannot tell whether a call originated from that number or not. Mr. Besing

suggested that she ask where they heard about *REACT* when she talks with callers. She explained that she sends all inquiries to the nearest Team or council when received (or to the Director if no Team or council is applicable). Mr. Knott asked that the Directors be kept in the loop. Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Knott to design a procedure for handling various types of membership inquiries.

Director Leef asked if there was any progress in finding someone to accept the Volunteer Agencies Liaison position. Mr. Thompson opined that it was essential to have someone in the Washington area. Mr. Cooper will attend the next Maryland Council meeting to make inquiries.

Mr. Leef asked that the Board try to handle more business via E-mail during the year to reduce the length of the Board's meeting agendas.

Question raised about asking manufacturers of GMRS equipment to include a note in the package advising of the requirement for an FCC license, and that notice be included on packaging and advertising. Referred to the Communications Committee for action.

Mr. Leef proposed that a *REACT* Calendar be published for 2003 or 2004. He suggested that Teams be encouraged to collect photos of Team events. A contest could be run to collect and judge the photos during the rest of 2002. Costs were discussed. He asked if it would be feasible for the Publications Review Committee to write an article on the topic and collect these photos from the members. He was given permission to pursue the collection of photos.

33. Election of President. Mr. Jennings opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Knott nominated Mr. Thompson. who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Thompson spoke about his activities and priorities during the past year, and said he

planned to continue in the same manner if reelected. Mr. Thompson was elected by acclamation.

34. Announcement of Officer Changes. Officer appointments are for one year, expiring in February. Mr. Thompson asked the Board to appoint Mr. Besing as Secretary and Treasurer, and Norman Kaplan (Md.) as Assistant Treasurer. If appointed, Mr. Besing will resign as Director of Region 7 as soon as the Board confirms a replacement. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Knott, to appoint Mr. Besing as Secretary and Treasurer, Unanimous, Motion Mr. Jennings, 2d Mr. Fry, to reappoint Mr. Cooper to the position of Executive Vice President. Unanimous. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Knott, to create the position of Assistant Treasurer and to appoint Norman Kaplan to this position, Unanimous, Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Leef, to ask Bob Kaster (Oklahoma) to fill the remaining term for Region 7 Director, effective when Mr. Besing resigns. Unanimous. The office of Vice President will remain vacant.

35. Convention Site Selection. Interest has been expressed by Las Vegas United RE-ACT in hosting the 2003 convention. Followup will be made to ensure this is handled in a timely manner. Mr. Murrell said the Indiana Council was interested in hosting in 2003, and had completed the paperwork, but did not get the package to Mr. Murrell for delivery to this meeting. The process of selection was discussed with timetable for approval and recommendation by the Site Selection Committee and consideration by convention delegates. It was observed that convention sites should be firmed two years in advance.

Financial statements were received from the Trinidad & Tobago *REACT* Council showing that it passed US\$1000 to the 2002 Convention Hosts as starter money (this being the amount received from the 2000 Convention hosts, Florida State *REACT* Council).

36. RI Store Items. Mr.

Faulkner (absent) sent a bid for some new items for the *REACT* Store. One was a 6"x9" orange and black *REACT* flag, single faced reversed, for mounting on car antennas with Velcro. Cost would be US\$1362 for 250 flags. Concern was expressed about loading the inventory with items without a market survey. It was decided to wait until the new caps were received, and study sales of those.

37. 2002 Convention in lowa, July 15-18. The schedule was presented, along with a copy of the registration form and article submitted to the REACTer. The main convention will begin on Tuesday with preliminary meetings on Monday. Mr. Thompson expressed some concern over the format of future conventions, specifically the length of the convention and which days of the week would be used. The convention packet does specify both three and four day formats. The scheduled Board meeting at 8 a.m. on Sunday will be moved to Monday.

Meeting recessed 6 p.m. Saturday.

Meeting called to order 8:30 a.m. Sunday. No change in attendance. Quorum present.

38. REACT Toll-Free Num-

ber. The Board expressed its appreciation to Charlie Land (Tex.) who arranged to reactivate the 877-554-4859 toll free number that had previously been set up and provided by Eric Hutchins (N.M.). The number is forwarded to RI's main telephone number. Mr. Land is funding the costs up to \$50 per month.

39. Counting 2002 Election Ballots. Mr. Thompson remarked that having the corporate accountants count the ballots in 2001 had worked well, and proposed it be done in 2002, instead of having ballots sent to the Convention site. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Knott, to have Director ballots sent

to the CPA firm for counting and reporting the results to the Board. Unanimous.

(Mr. Murrell departed the meeting at 8:45 a.m. All other Directors/officers still present. Quorum present.)

40. Financial Institution Requirements. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Cooper, that the Board adopt the standard corporate resolutions required by RI's financial institutions. Copies of resolutions will be attached to the official copy of these minutes. Unanimous.

41. Resignation of Director; Appointment of Replacement. It having been confirmed that Mr.

Kaster would accept appointment as Director for Region 7, Mr. Besing submitted his written resignation, effective the end of this meeting. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Fry, to appoint Robert Kaster as Region 7 Director, term to expire in July 2003. Unanimous.

42. Director Resignation Deemed Effective. In accordance with Section 5.5(b) of the *REACT* International Bylaws, the Board having completed its agenda and ready to adjourn, the Board noted that Region 1 Director Fred Lanshe was deemed to have resigned, having missed two consecutive meetings of the Board.

Upon motion by Mr. Thompson,

2d Mr. Cooper, the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 11:32 a.m., February 24, 2002, *sine die.*

Lee W. Besing Secretary

(President Charles A Thompson prepared this summary from the extensive minutes submitted by the Secretary. The complete minutes are available electronically by sending e-mail to cpresident@react
intl.org> or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$0.78 postage (for U.S. delivery) to REACT International, Inc., 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330.)

Wanted! REACT Photos!

by R. K. "Bob" Leef

During the Winter Board Meeting at headquarters it was pointed out by office manager Dora Wilbanks that the collection of photos at RI is outdated and in need of rejuvenation. It doesn't look like we are in the 21st century when a 1960s era vehicle appears in the picture next to a REACTer. (No, it's not a "classic" car). We need good up-to-date examples of our activities. and the Board decided to do something about it.

Some examples may already be in your files or albums. If not, start focusing your cameras on current opportunities such as monitoring stations, event communications, emergency assis-

tance, meetings, Team trailer/motorhome, Team equipment display, etc. Be sure to dress in uniform, and hang *REACT* signs or banners in the background if possible. .This should be a project for all teams from now until the deadline of September 1.

There will actually be several purposes in getting new photos. Besides a need at RI - and for *The REACTer* - you may want to use some of them for Team public relations such as brochures, flyers, and website. Another purpose is for the possibility of a *REACT* calendar for 2003. Wouldn't you like to have your Team seen nationwide? Great PR!

If response is sufficient, 13 of the best examples of REACT in action may be selected for this project. I already have a cost quotation from a REACTer in the printing business after a member from another Team suggested this calendar idea. But we will need your photo participation before any of this can happen.

Judging will be done by the Publications Review Committee. Please send photos with a brief explanation to *The REACTer*, P.O. Box 180922, Austin TX 78718-0922, or by E-mail (JPEG file format) to < pubrev@react intl.org > before September 1. *Important:* Please identify the people in the picture and tell us who took the picture.

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Committee, Liaison Changes OK'd by Board by Dick Cooper, Executive Vice-President

he world is full of change and recently the structure of the *REACT* committee and liai son system has encountered several changes. The Rapid Response Committee has been renamed the Emergency Response Committee. Many of the responsibilities are the same with some new ones added. This committee is now structured more efficiently so that it can address some growing needs for *REACT* Teams. Chris Myers of Florida is the new committee chairman

The Public Relations Liaison position is now the Public Relations Committee. This change is meant to encourage more participation from the *REACT* membership.

The Life Membership Committee has become a functioning part of the Membership Development and Retention Committee rather than a stand-alone committee. The Life Members will handle their business at the annual RI Convention as usual and Life Membership will continue to be a very important part of the total RI membership structure.

These changes, approved by the RI Board of Directors, are intended to make the entire com-

mittee and liaison structure more efficient so that it can be more effective and operate more smoothly. *REACT* Teams and members should see the positive results of these changes soon. In addition, the chairpersons and liaison positions generally will not be reappointed at the RI Convention unless there is a vacancy to be filled. Existing committees and liaison positions will function during the RI Convention without interruption when possible. This is another positive step in the effective operation of these positions.

We are looking for a chairperson for the Convention and Site Selection Committee and liaisons for the Government Relations, Voluntary Agencies, and Ways and Means Liaison positions. If you are interested in any of these positions, please email me at <dcooper@reactintl.org>, call me at 877-881-3995 (toll free), or call the RI office in Suitland, MD. You can visit the RI web site at < w w w . r e a c t i n t l . o r g / c o m m i t t e e s / cmte.homepage.htm> to review the various positions and descriptions. Use the e-mail links to contact someone regarding the position. Your efforts are appreciated.

Is Your Team Getting Its Share?

by Ron McCracken, Chairman, Public Relations Committee

Grant Money for Your Team?

Federal funds promised by President Bush for Homeland Security have been released. States receive the funds and distribute them to counties.

Move fast to contact your sheriff, police, or emergency management liaison. Ask for information on how your Team can take advantage of the Homeland Security funds allocated for volunteer organizations. Timing and procedures vary by county.

Delay at your peril. Some counties began releasing funds months ago. Others have not begun yet. Contact your local officials at once. Remember, "the early bird gets the worm."

Teams that heeded our earlier recommendations to subscribe to the *REACT*-L e-mail list got

this important news on March 21. Your Team could have too. This is a perfect example of the huge advantage the *REACT* e-mail service offers.

Avoid missing good news like this in future. Every *REACT* member is welcome to subscribe free to the List. Just send an e-mail with only the word SUBSCRIBE to: < react-l@gibbousmoon.com > and you're in. Get as many members of your Team subscribed as possible. That way, someone is likely to spot key posts quickly when they appear so your Team will be right on top of things.

Best wishes for success in your Team's quest for a grant. Let us know at < pr@reactintl.org > so we can share your success with other Teams to encourage them. Thanks.

REACT ivities.....Team, Council, and Region News

Oklahoma County (Okla.) *REACT*

Thursday, February 28, 2002. The morning started out just as most other days. Dale Ellis, Vice-President of Oklahoma County (Okla.) *REACT*, was on his way to work. As he drove through Midwest City, he noticed an unusually large amount of smoke coming from a housing area. It was not far from him, so he decided to take the time to check out the source.

As he neared the location where the smoke appeared to originate, he heard a transmission on his scanner, dispatching the Midwest City Fire Department to a fire at an address in the general area where he was searching.

At almost the same time, he pulled up in front of the house to which the firefighters had been sent. At that point, no one else had arrived, so he got out to see if he could determine if anyone was inside the building. He saw a person, with a garden hose, standing inside the house trying to put out the fire. The house appeared to be fully involved, with flames shooting out a window.

Dale decided that it was not a good idea for the man to stay in the house, and he began to call to the man, telling him to come outside. As Dale approached the house, the glass fell



Oklahoma Co. *REACT* President Bob Kaster (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Dale Ellis, who rescued a man from a burning house.

(Photo: Khrista Meyer)

out of the storm door. The man did not respond to Dale's calls, so Dale went inside. The man appeared dazed, so Dale escorted him outside. The man, who was wearing only sweat pants (no shirt or shoes), apparently had just gotten up.

Dale checked the man for obvious injuries, and finding none, took the garden hose and sprayed the house until the Midwest City Fire Department arrived on the scene. At that time, he left and went on to work.

Later, with information from police sources based on the *REACT* signs on Dale's truck, a Fire Inspector contacted Dale. The Inspector told Dale that, in another ten or fifteen seconds, the man would have been on the ground, overcome by smoke inhalations and/or burns. As it was,

the man was hospitalized with first and second degree burns over his upper torso, head and arms. The victim was expected to be released in a few days.

Dale commented that when he arrived at the scene, he saw other people just watching the fire, not doing anything to help. It is not in Dale's nature, however, to be just an observer. In his mind, he was just doing the right thing. In Dale's words, "This was a time 'When Seconds Counted'"

Later that day, Dale was interviewed by a reporter from KWTV Channel 9 in Oklahoma City, and the clip was shown on local television that night. Our congratulations, and thanks for a job well done, go to Dale Ellis.

-Bob Kaster, President Oklahoma Co. *REACT* Team 2620

REACT ivities.....Team, Council, and Region News

Louisville Metro (Ky.) REACT

Louisville METRO *REACT* and OH-KY-IN *REACT* joined forces to provide communications for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica in Louisville Kentucky on Saturday, April 13th. Louisville METRO *REACT* has supported this event since the first March of Dimes walkathon in Louisville 28 years ago and has been the only communications support for the event for over two decades.

"Like many REACT Teams, Louisville METRO isn't as large as it once was, and with 3,000 walkers along a 15km route we would have been stretched pretty thin except for the assistance of OH-KY-IN REACT," explained Team President Tom Currie.

Steve Cohn and Jeff Lehman of OH-KY-IN *REACT* made the two hour trip from Cincinnati to Louisville to help support this community event.

Tri-County (III.) REACT

Tri-County *REACT* member Mark Redecker was traveling on Illinois Route 157 near Edwardsville, Ill, early one morning last February, when his car began to spin out of control on the slick road. It had snowed the night before and there was two inches of snow on the ground and the road was a complete sheet of ice. It had not been plowed or salted at all the night before.

He quickly recovered and

then saw about ten cars in the ditch along the road. Mark made the decision to close the road because it was impassable. He turned on his lights and slowly drove to the next intersection. He turned around and shut down the road with cones and flares.

He left the cones and flares at the intersection and drove down the road to check to see if anyone in the ten cars was injured. Soon after that, drivers started to ignore the road-block Mark had set up and had started to drive around the cones and flares. More cars started to lose control on the road. Another ten cars ended up in the ditch for a total of about twenty.

While this was happening, Mark had called 911 on his cell phone and told them he had twenty cars in the ditch with no injuries so far but needed salt trucks, tow trucks, and police to shut down the highway. Soon emergency vehicles began to arrive and police saw right away that Mark was correct and they closed the highway.

Officers on the scene thanked Mark for his help. Mark had to remain at the scene for quite some time because the road was impassable. As soon as a salt truck arrived and salted the road, Mark left to continue on to a morning class.

-Brian Fischer, Tri-County *REACT*

Travis County (Tex.) REACT

What a difference a little effort, and a few years, can make. Ten years ago, Travis Co. *REACT* was down to half a dozen active members and the Team's future was very much in

doubt. The members decided to spend a full year rebuilding the Team. They agreed on two goals: increasing the Team's activity, mainly by working more community events, and building a relationship with local amateur radio and other communications groups.

Some members took the plunge and became licensed hams and members of local ham radio clubs. Some joined the Austin Radio Communications Club (ARCC), originally a CB club. Meanwhile, Team officers actively sought – and quickly found – more opportunities for the Team to provide useful services to the community.

Before long, members of ARCC and of the ham clubs were asking if they could help with some of the activities. They could, they did, and many of them joined the Team.

Today Travis Co. *REACT* has about thirty members, three-fourths of whom are licensed hams. The Team has repeaters on its businessband frequency and on a ham frequency, with the FCC call sign of K5TCR.

And on March 25, Travis Co. *REACT* became an affiliate club of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the world's largest amateur radio organization.

ARRL officials Coy Day (N5OK) and Ray Taylor (N5NAV) and Texas State *REACT* Council President Lee Besing came to Austin from Dallas and San Antonio to present the ARRL club charter to Team President Paula Coker. Taylor also gave copies of four ARRL publications to the Team for its library, and repeater directories were given to two members as "door prizes."

-Roger Wines The REACTer

New Teams

Welcome to these newly-chartered members of the *REACT* family!

6052 Big River REACT, Paul, ID
 6053 Ohio Valley REACT,
 Madison, OH
 6054 Central Valley REACT
 CAT Team, Lemoore, CA
 6055 Polk County REACT, Des
 Moines, IA

100 PerCenters

The following Teams have renewed 100 percent of their members for 2002. (List does not include Teams previously announced.)

4811 Dresden, OH

C602 Bloomsburg Area, PA

C053 Tidewater, VA

4816 Frostburg, MD

4990 Barbour County, AL

4650 Annapolis Arundel, MD

C261 Circle City, IN

2371 Suffolk County, NY

C109 Prince William, VA

3369 Preston County, WV

3425 Mendocino Coast, CA

2260 Fort Sutter, CA

3462 Greater Anchorage, AK

6006 Victoria/St. Patrick, TT

4938 Dutchess/Putnam County,

2060 Rose City Windsor, ON

6038 Dakota County, MN

2947 Unity, IL

3330 Lake County, IN

3135 Phillips County, KS

4651 Hamilton Mercer, NJ

4755 Door County, WI

6043 REACT Ocean State, RI

4086 Hot Line, PA

C242 Garden State, NJ

4895 Salem County, NJ

6023 REACT of Edmond OK, OK

Silent Mics

Gloria Aubrey, Louisville Metro (Ky.) *REACT* – "Gloria was age 73 when she passed away [Feb. 20, 2002]. She had suffered a stroke two or three years ago, which ended her *REACT* career. She was a wonderful person who, in fact, may have been a charter member. She was very active on the Team and always ready to help work Team events such as the Walk for Hunger, the March of Dimes walk, and such. The *REACT* vest she always wore was covered with year pin awards and patches....Gloria was simply one of those people who was a delight to be around."

-Rev. Daniel "Padre" Clark

Lance Lamar Luedtke, Waukesha (Wis.) REACT, Life Member 61 — "For those old-timers who knew Lance, you knew he was a very dedicated 'life' in our organization. He was instrumental in the formation of the Southern California REACT Council and dedicated his life to helping others. He will be missed but will always be remembered.

-Ed Greany, Crest (Calif.) REACT

Elvin Erntson, Albert Lea (Minn.) *REACT* — Elvin, better known as "Slim Jim" on the CB, had been a very active member of the Team since he joined in 1989. He topok part in all of the Team's many community events over the years. One of our members told him shortly before his death that, "He had to get well because he was the only one crazy enough to stand out in the middle of a busy street directing traffic." He laughed and agreed. In spite of his illness, he still assisted with the annual Big Island Rendezvous last October. He had a zany sense of humor that everyone loved. He will be greatly missed!

Randall Delphin, Tidewater (Va.) *REACT* – Randy had been a member since 1987. He will be missed by his wife and children and will be remembered by the Team.

Also:

C475 Ruth Sanfilippo, Southwestern *REACT* of San Diego, CA

C475 Merle Cunningham, Southwestern REACT of San Diego, CA

C446 Grace Petzell, Brownwood CB Emerg. Unit, TX

C267 John Burks, Butte County, CA

2642 Stanley Chapman, Poway, CA

3810 Evelyn Kruse, CBA Potter, TX

C267 Ken Goldsberry, Butte County, CA

C142 Ronald Frye, Blue Ridge, VA

2983 Dale Dawson, Gage County, NE

2371 Anne Perkowski, Suffolk County, NY

C261 Nellie Williams, Circle City, IN

C109 James B. Morris, Prince William, VA

9500 Sylvia Sherman (LM 169), WI

4866 Don Valley, ON

2036 Michigan Emergency Patrol,

MI

6005 Caroni, TT

2457 Durham County, NC

C633 Tri County, NC

C085 Metro, CA

4208 Air Capital, KS

Unsquelched

by Stuart M. DeLuca, Editor

On My Way to Ioway!

he check, as they say, is in the mail – along with my registration form. Couldn't make it to Trinidad last year, but how could I pass up a chance to go to Iowa?

As a matter of fact, I've been to lowa before. Did my undergraduate degree at a little college in central Illinois, which, as experienced travelers know, is not very different from Iowa. I even had some good friends who were from Iowa, and on occasion I accompanied them on visits home.

Kay Neil, chairperson extraordinaire of the 2002 *REACT* International Convention – being held in Des Moines, lowa – offers a list of famous people from lowa. Some of them were listed in the last *REACTer*, but there's more! Here are a few:

Steve Allen, Fran Allison (of "Kukla, Fran, and Ollie"), Foster Brooks, William Frawley (of "I Love Lucy"), Harriet Nelson (of "Ozzie and Harriet," mother of teen idol David Nelson), George Reeves (TV's first "Superman"), Jerry Mathers ("Leave It to Beaver"), Daniel J. Travanti ("Hill Street Blues").

Not to mention authors James Norman Hall ("Mutiny on the Bounty"), Laura Ingalls Wilder and Grace Pearl Ingalls ("Little House on the Prairie"), W. P. Kinsella ("Field of Dreams"), Robert Waller ("Bridges of Madison County"). And inventors Elmer and Fred Maytag and John Deere.

Newsman Harry Reasoner is from Iowa. So are Abigail Van Buren and Ann Landers. Musicians Glen Miller, C. W. McCall, and Meredith Willson ("The Music Man") all learned to toot in Iowa.Iowa agronomist Norman Borlaug won a Nobel Peace Prize. Iowan Herbert Hoover won the White House, and Henry Wallace was vice president to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

There's more, but I'm running out of room.

I could point out that all of these fine people are *from* Iowa, not *in* Iowa. But that would be rude and I don't want to do that.

Besides, the important thing is that a bunch of truly fine people *will* be in lowa for a week in July. Details are on pages 8-9 of this issue.

If you've never been to a *REACT* Convention, you don't know what you're missing. Iowa is about as centrally located and accessible as anyplace ever will be; you have no excuse. If you have been to a *REACT* Convention before, chances are your registration is already on its way.

See you there!

P.S.: In the March-April *REACTer*, I announced that Patricia Knight would be Art Editor of the magazine. After the issue went to press, she found that it was more than she had bargained for and elected not to continue.

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